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Bernhard's Northrop Ties Stir Wave of Questions

Prince's Financial Deals, Personal Life, Apparent C.I.A. Links, and Even His Background Are Under Scrutiny

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Special to The New York Times

THE HAGUE, Sept. 4—Disclosures that Prince Bernhard retained links with the Northrop Aircraft Corporation as well as Lockheed have stirred a wave of questions here about the Prince's financial dealings, his personal life, his ties to American intelligence officials and even his background.

To senior Dutch officials, as well as journalists, the scandal involving Prince Bernhard remains like a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces have not yet fitted together. "The question is why did he actually do this?" a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday. "Was it greed, what was it?"

Beyond the reasons for his requests for favors, some of them seemingly petty, some of them sizable, allegations have also been raised here about Prince Bernhard's ties to the Central Intelligence Agency, his jet-set life and friendships with several women, and his complex relationship with his mother and godfather, a former czarist army officer.

The 65-year-old German-born Prince earns a salary of \$300,000 a year, and is married to one of the world's richest women. Queen Juliana receives a tax-free annual salary of about \$1.3 million and has a private fortune estimated at \$12 million, although it may be far higher.

Asked \$1 Million Payment

On the face of it, according to Dutch officials, Prince Bernhard hardly needed money; yet in 1974 he told Lockheed that he was "bitter" that the company had not acknowledged his services and asked, somewhat petulantly, for a \$1 million commission.

Carl A. Kotchian, Lockheed's former president, told a Senate hearing that Prince Bernhard "would lead you to believe that the Queen has him on a tight budget."

"He usually said there were great demands upon him for charitable donations in Holland and internationally, and he has a great interest in wildlife and he had to pay the money out for that," Mr. Kotchian said.

Other facts have since emerged about Prince Bernhard's financial needs.

According to Dutch sources, his mother, Princess Armgard, arrived in the Netherlands penniless shortly after World War I, with a half-dozen relatives, having lost all the family's property. The Princess was accompanied by Col. A.E. Pantchoulidzew, a czarist officer who fled the Soviet Union in 1917, and worked as a stablehand for Princess Armgard and her husband, Prince Bernhard zur Lippe. He eventually became part of the family and Prince Bernhard's godfather.

British Allegation

When Bernhard's father died, his will reportedly gave custody of the children to the colonel and a letter that was disclosed posthumously asked the colonel to take care of his wife.

It appears that in 1968, shortly before the colonel's death, he and Princess Armgard were married. Last week The Observer, the British Sunday newspaper, published the allegation that the colonel might have actually been Prince Bernhard's father.

Prince Bernhard purchased an estate for his mother in the eastern Netherlands in the 1950's, and reportedly sold it in 1974, after his mother's death, for more than \$350,000 to a company in Lichtenstein. According to informed sources here, one of the trustees of the company was Tibor Rosenbaum, a Swiss friend of Prince Bernhard and director of the International Credit Bank, which collapsed several years ago. The bank reportedly held funds deposited by Meyer Lansky, the underworld figure.

named in the Dutch Government's inquiry as the man to whom Lockheed paid \$1 million through a Swiss bank account

to be" assumed by Lockheed that the money had indeed got to [the Prince], the inquiry's report said.

According to Dutch officials, it was evident in the 1950's that Prince Bernhard was "extremely anxious" to assist his mother and relatives. Moreover, Queen Juliana was reportedly embarrassed and displeased about her mother-in-law's relationship with Colonel Pantchoulidzew, and reluctant to provide sizable assistance.

According to the Government report, Prince Bernhard admitted that he and his friend Fred Meuser, a Lockheed official, dispensed \$100,000 to "a few mutual acquaintances," among the other favors performed by the aircraft company.

Prince Bernhard—who was used by the Government over the last three decades as an energetic salesman of Dutch goods—traveled abroad repeatedly and led a frenetic jet-set life, compared to that of Queen Juliana, a matronly and shy figure.

Apparent C.I.A. Ties

British and Dutch newspapers have commented widely about his relationship with Countess Helene Lejeune — nicknamed "Poupette"—the daughter of a prominent surgeon and a mother who has appeared in some minor French films.

But perhaps the most intriguing and unexplained element to the mystery surrounding Prince Bernhard is his apparent ties to the Central Intelligence Agency.

One reliable source close to the Government said that last February, when Prime Minister Joop den Uyl asked Prince Bernhard about the allegations that linked him to Lockheed, the Prince laughed and denied any wrongdoing. Bernhard said, however: "If you would ask me about my relations with the C.I.A., that would be a different matter."

Prince Bernhard's wartime aide, Gen. John von Houghton, a Dutch resistance hero and an intelligence officer, reportedly had ties to the C.I.A. here in the 1950's.

A small commercial bank that Mr. Houghton set up in the Hague after the war—a bank in which Prince Bernhard reportedly maintained an account—was, according to one source here, financially assisted by the C.I.A. The bank eventually collapsed amid allegations of illicit

According to one reliable source here, the Prince maintained close friendships with C.I.A. officials in the Hague as well as with the former United States Ambassador, J. William Middendorf, who left his diplomatic post in 1973 and is now Secretary of the Navy.

Prince Bernhard was also a close friend of Allen W. Dulles, founder of the C.I.A., and it is known that several men involved in the Dutch resistance and in post-war intelligence later found jobs with Lockheed.

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